

## *Design Memorandum No. 01-01*

TO: Engineering Offices and Divisions  
Districts  
Consulting Engineers

FROM: Kenneth Birst, Design Engineer

DATE: September 17, 2001

SUBJECT: RURAL INTERSTATE DESIGN SPEED

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Design Manual Reference:

Section III-02

\_\_\_\_ Revision  
\_\_\_\_ ° Supplemental

### **Introduction**

The NDDOT Highway Classification and Performance Guidelines adopted for the rural interstate system provide for a 75 mph design speed.

### **Implementation**

The 75 mph design speed shall be in effect for rural interstate projects beginning with the November 16, 2001 bid opening. The design speed shall apply to both geometric and safety features. Additional guidance is provided as follows for each different investment strategy.

### **Guidance**

New and Reconstruction Strategies - These projects shall be designed with a design speed of 75 mph and shall address geometric issues and safety enhancements.

3R Strategies - These projects typically address geometric issues and safety enhancements. The existing safety appurtenances and roadway geometry should be evaluated at the posted speed of 70 mph. Improvements would be proposed as follows:

- 1) If the safety appurtenances and roadway geometry meet current standards and guidelines, then the design speed shall be 70 mph.
- 2) If the existing safety appurtenances are deficient, and the roadway geometry meets a 70 mph design speed, then safety appurtenance improvements shall be proposed with a design speed of 70 mph.

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- 3) If the existing safety appurtenances are deficient, and the roadway geometry meets a 75 mph design speed, then safety appurtenance improvements shall be proposed with a design speed of 75 mph.

Preventive Maintenance strategies - These projects do not typically address geometric issues or safety enhancements. Therefore, the design speed shall be the posted speed or design speed used for the original design.

The urban interstate system design speeds will continue to be reviewed on a case by case basis through the Concept Report Process.

### **Questions**

Any question regarding the content or implementation of this memorandum should be referred to Mark S. Gaydos, Design Division, 701-328-4417.

### **Approved**

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Francis Ziegler - Director of Office of Infrastructure Support

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Date